Amendment

In the Claims

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A composition for the administration of an agent to a cell comprising

a viscous material and an agent to be delivered, wherein the viscous material comprises ~~methyl cellulose~~ a polysaccharide in a concentration range of between 1.0 and 2.0% (w/w), and wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, nucleotide molecules, saccharides, polysaccharides, lipids, synthetic chemotherapeutic agents, and diagnostic compounds, wherein the composition has an apparent viscosity of less than 10 Poise or greater than 2000 Poise at a shear stress of between approximately 1 and 200 Pascal.

29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the composition has approximately the same apparent viscosity, at a shear stress of between approximately 1 and 1000 Pascal and at a strain rate approximately that of endocytosis, as the cytosolic fluid of the cell to which the agent is to be delivered.

30. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 28 wherein the concentration of ~~methyl cellulose~~ the polysaccharide is less than or equal to 1.75 % (w/w).

31. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, alpha interferons, beta interferon, follicle stimulating hormone, and growth factors.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering an agent to cells at a site where uptake is desired comprising administering to the cells at the site where uptake is desired a composition comprising

(a) a viscous material comprising ~~methyl cellulose~~ a polysaccharide in a concentration range of between 1.0 and 2.0% (w/w), and

(b) the agent to be delivered, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, nucleotide molecules, saccharides, polysaccharides, lipids, synthetic chemotherapeutic agents, and diagnostic compounds,

wherein the composition has an apparent viscosity of less than 10 Poise or greater than 2000 Poise at a shear stress of between approximately 1 and 200 Pascal.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the cells to which the agent is to be delivered are in the nose, rectum, mouth, ear, eye, or lungs.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition is administered topically.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is mucosal tissue.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is lower gastrointestinal tract mucosal tissue.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein site is the vagina or rectum.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is the nose, eye, or mouth.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is the respiratory or pulmonary system.

40. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of celluloses, dextrans and alginates.

41. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of celluloses, dextrans and alginates.

42. (New) The composition of claim 40 wherein the polysaccharide is methylcellulose.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the polysaccharide is methylcellulose.